

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 121697
ORIGIN INT-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 /027 R

DRAFTED BY INT:USGS/FSSIMONS
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:J.W.TWINAM
INT:USGS/DFDAVIDSON
NEA/ARP: F.GERLACH
INT:USGS/HLFLEMING

-----085935 122000Z /61

O 121854Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ABULRAZAK ABU RASHID

REF: JIDDA 3552

PASS DEMATTEO USGS FROM SIMONS AND DAVIDSON

HAVE CHECKED WITH BOTH OVERSTREET AND GLEN BROWN ON POINTS
ONE, TWO, AND THREE:

1. REPORT WAS PUBLISHED BY FIELD RESEARCH PROJECTS,
COCONUT GROVE, MIAMI, IN 1973 AND WAS BASED ON BRIEF
OBSERVATIONS AT SEVEN SITES MADE DURING A 12 DAY
GEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP IN 1972. PARAGRAPH TWO, PAGE ONE OF
THIS REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS, IN TOTO: "DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE
ARTIFACTS AND STRUCTURES ARE RECORDED BELOW. THE ARTIFACTS
SHOWN IN THE ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS, REPRESENTING THE
COLLECTION OF MAY 1-12, 1972, AND THE MATERIAL FROM
DR. BROWN, HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED BY THE U.S.G.S. PROJECT IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 121697

JIDDAH THROUGH HIS EXCELLENCY DR. FADIL K. KABBANI, DEPUTY
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
MINERAL RESOURCES, TO HRH PRINCE KHALID BIN FAHD BIN
KHALID, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
FOR PRESERVATION IN THE ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THE
MINISTRY AT RIYADH."

2. BOTH BROWN AND OVERSTREET RECALL VAGUELY A PERSON NAMED AGUSTUS SARDINAS AND THINK THAT HE WAS POSSIBLY AN AMATEUR ARCHEOLOGIST. IN ANY CASE, HE HAD NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH USGS.

3. OVERSTREET CATEGORICALLY DENIES SENDING ANY ARCHEOLOGICAL OBJECTS OUT OF THE KINGDOM AND REFERRED US TO A LETTER DATED 16/7/1393 FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. HASSAN A. AL-ALSHAIKH, THANKING HIM FOR SENDING THEM THE COLLECTIONS. OVERSTREET ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER IN A REPLY DATED 24 AUGUST 1973.

4, 5. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

6. SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT THE NEWS RELEASE WAS BASED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON PUBLISHED MATERIAL. OTHER THAN THAT THERE IS LITTLE FURTHER TO SAY. THE RELEASE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARED THROUGH DGMR. WE ADMIT OUR MISTAKE AND ASSURE THAT NOTHING SIMILAR WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE, AND WHAT MORE CAN WE DO.

7. DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEHIND THIS ITEM. THE ONLY DIRECT COMMUNICATION I CAN RECALL SINCE I ARRIVED IN SEPT. 1976 IS A RECENT LETTER TO MASRY ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES PUBLICATIONS AND THANKING HIM FOR THEM. I HAVE HAD NO REASON TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 121697

REVIEW EARLIER FILES AND EXCEPT FOR THE LETTER OF OVERSTREET CITED IN (3) ABOVE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.

THERE IS CLEARLY MORE GOING ON HERE THAN THE ACCUSATION THAT USGS HAS DONE ILLEGAL ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK. SUGGEST THAT WE RESPOND ONLY TO THAT ACCUSATION AS WE CAN REFUTE MASRY ON EVERY POINT OF CONSEQUENCE. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GEOLOGY, ARCHEOLOGY, ALLEGATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE121697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: USGS/FSSIMONS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780202-1103
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780563/aaaachbg.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b2e969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN INT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JIDDA 3552
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2704158
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH ABULRAZAK ABU RASHID
TAGS: TGEN, SA, US
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b2e969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014